# The Lost Civilisation of Australia

The existence of little-known megalithic structures across the Australian landscape suggests we should revise our thinking on prehistory and human evolution.

## by Rex Gilroy, © 1994/95

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S cattered across Australia stand enigmatic relics of a bygone civilisation: megalithic stone alignments, walls and other structures; pyramid-shaped mountains once utilised as astronomical observatories; serpent altars where unknown rites were performed; and mystery rock inscriptions of a long-vanished people.

Who were they? What are the origins of the 'lost civilisation of Australia'?

I first became aware of this mystery race in January 1965 when, while exploring dense scrubland west of Sydney at an upper Blue Mountains site overlooking a valley, I came upon a 50-foot-tall pyramidal sandstone mound composed of rubble, formed from a huge rock in ages past.

At its base I found two stone slabs forming steps on the western side of the mound and, above these, other collapsed slabs that appeared to have once formed more steps to the summit.

Upon reaching the summit, I found myself standing on a flat sandstone base facing east overlooking the valley. Before me stood a large formation—a continuation of the same sandstone base rock—whose flat surface, I found to my surprise upon closer examination, had been carved out in the form of a serpent.

Later I returned to measure the structure. The rock was undoubtedly an altar stone, 5 feet 8 inches long, by 2 feet 4 inches wide, by 4 feet high. It faced north-south in a curved formation, with a groove representing the serpent's mouth at its northern (head) end pointing east. Beside the altar on its northern side stood a large boulder, also four feet in height, upon which was a long, deep groove obviously used for sharpening a stone knife. Had sacrifices, human or animal, once been performed upon this alter? I later measured the mound's base at 350 feet in circumference.

Upon searching other nearby rocks I soon found another 'serpent altar' amid bushes some yards to the west. It was part of a large sandstone block standing 10 feet tall on an east-west axis. The serpent, carved in relief, measured 13 feet 5 inches in length by one foot wide at the head, the body then measuring from 6 inches out to 14 inches as it enlarged in width toward a rounded end.

Further west still, I later discovered another altar stone—a 10-foot-tall rock whose summit bore the weathered relief carving of an eagle, 4 feet 6 inches long by 3 feet 6 inches wide across its single outstretched left wing, facing north as did the bird's beak. The figure was on an east-west axis.

A much larger 'eagle altar' came to light in 1974 at another upper Blue Mountains location, reached by climbing a 20-foot-tall rock. The bird measures 5 feet 10 inches in length from head to tail, its beak and outstretched right wing facing south. A small slab of rock at the monument's base contained the deep, weathered carving of an open-mouthed serpent.

A number of other serpent and eagle altar sites were to come to light across the Blue Mountains over the years following the 1974 eagle altar find. However, it was the 1965 serpent altars discovery that first led me to speculate that here was evidence of a hitherto unknown Australian 'lost' civilisation.

In March 1969, at another Blue Mountains location, I stumbled upon a tall pillar-like rock standing 50 feet tall on a cliff edge overlooking the Jameison Valley. Upon climbing it, I found engraved in the flat ironstone summit a number of small symbols. They were not Aboriginal figures and appeared to be some form of hieroglyphic script.

Later, in January 1973, I found the symbol of a flower engraved upon a small square ironstone slab at Blackheath. This new find led my wife Heather and me to undertake an all-out search for further examples of this mystery script—a search which continues to

this day. 1973 saw us uncover more extensive lettering sites at other locations across the Blue Mountains, while in 1974 we found other symbols near Gosford, north of Sydney.

The 1970s and 1980s would see us locate a great number of these symbols at numerous sites across New South Wales and also in southern and far northern Queensland where another set was discovered near Rockhampton in 1992.

By 1974 we had gathered enough script examples to realise these formed the written language of this vanished race of serpent/eagle worshippers. This led me to attempt the translation of the many inscriptions which consist of a mixture of symbols, strokes and dots, somewhat reminiscent of a mixture of Middle Eastern and Celtic scripts.

What has emerged from our joint Australia-wide investigation since 1973 is far too voluminous to be adequately covered in this chapter so I am able only to present the barest outline.

The mass of evidence gathered to date suggests that, thousands of years before the rise of the better-known civilisations of the Near and Middle East, Australia was home to a highly advanced race of megalith-building people who were in possession of a written language.

Let us now examine more of this evidence.

Scattered around Sydney's western suburbs over a wide area of this now largely built-up region there were (or still are) often large, man-made earthen mounds and even hills whose outlines, when mapped, appear to resemble the outlines of serpents, other animals and even circles. Such formations have been reported to me Australia-wide and are reminiscent of similar structures found across Europe and Asia.

Traces of lost civilisations lie scattered throughout the world. With the notable exception of Atlantis, fragmentary remains of unknown civilisations of the past have come to light in the most surprising places. For example, Atlantis is by no means the only submerged civilisation. Underwater ruins of ancient cities have been located off the Bay of Bengal, the north coast of Papua New Guinea, Torres Strait, the Cook Islands, off Tonga, New Zealand's north island, and also Australia.

And then there are the enigmatic remains on Easter Island with mysterious roads that lead out into the sea, presumably to nowsubmerged cities of a much larger prediluvian land mass.

The whole Polynesian race extending from Hawaii to New Zealand preserves traditions of the "great land to the south" which, to the Maoris, was located directly to the west of New Zealand and which, they said, was inhabited by a race of people who built in stone and were expert astronomers. As the Maoris themselves had only been resident in New Zealand since about 1,500 years ago, and as the mysterious Australian civilisation had long vanished before then, it is obvious that this tradition had been passed down to the Maoris by earlier inhabitants of New Zealand. And it is certain the Maoris knew exactly where Australia was, as from discoveries of Maori stone tools and other traces of their ancient landfalls on Australia's east coast.

The various South Sea islanders and the Maoris claim their lands all once had closer contacts with Australia, and that there was a great land-shelf linking all the islands with New Guinea and Australia in the times of their ancestors. This collection of traditions certainly suggests that the scientists could be wrong in their assumption that New Zealand and the Melanesian region were never joined together in the time of early man.

Thus the traditions of sunken lands and cultural centres of the native populations of this whole region all fit in with various traces of submerged ruins off the eastern Australian coast and in Torres Strait. Of all these, the Maori tradition of the lost land of Whaingaroa, and the sunken megalithic structures of Torres Strait and Queensland spring to mind.



The three granite boulders forming a triangle, situated to the north-west of a stone circle alignment on a property near Bathurst, NSW. The entire 10-square-mile site may have been one great open-air astronomical observatory.

According to the Maoris, an extensive tract of land beyond Cape Reinga (the northernmost tip of the north island), called the land of Whainga-roa, was once submerged by the sea in a disaster in which whole populations perished together with their cultural centres.

Archaeologists have been searching for years for the submerged remains of an island which native tradition says once existed somewhere between Papua New Guinea and Australia and was destroyed by a volcanic eruption.

During the mid-1970s, divers uncovered a number of large, carved stone heads. Nearby, on one small island, remains of temples were found. In more recent years, submerged remains of a large crumbling pyramidal structure have been located in the same region.

Other native traditions maintain that the former Australian landbridge link—of which Torres Strait and its islands were once part—was the location of a civilisation whose now-submerged ruins near Port Moresby are but a remnant.

Most ancient traditions persisted across Asia of a vast southern continent so plentiful in gold and other precious minerals and jewels that it surpassed all other lands. Its inhabitants were said to be builders in stone and experts in astronomy. These traditions were passed down to the ancient Chinese who eventually undertook extensive voyages to this wondrous land.

Who were these mysterious people? Certainly not the Australian Aborigines who were never astronomers nor builders in stone. However, their traditions are full of "culture heroes" who came from far across the sea at various times to impart elements of their cultures upon the Aborigines. These culture heroes included visitors from the Middle East and Mediterranean region, the Near East and China. However, there are other culture heroes the Aborigines say came from out of the Earth—in other words, from Australia itself.

Like other culture heroes who came from across the sea, it is said that the mysterious Australian race also "carved out the mountains and hills" and "rolled great stones about the land".

According to the Aborigines, these people were pale-skinned. They erected "sacred stones" and other structures across the continent and "worshipped the stars".

Knowledge of this archaic civilisation had certainly spread far

across the Pacific Ocean beyond Polynesia to the Americas where the Inca and Maya certainly had knowledge of the great land situated in the southern region of the great ocean. This would help to explain certain enigmatic relics as Mayan jade implements, not to mention Incan items, dug up in Papua New Guinea, Cape York and other areas of the Australia-New Guinea region.

Two small Easter Island-type stone heads were recovered at Emerald in far north Queensland in the 1970s. Similar heads have turned up in the Whitsunday Passage off the north Queensland coast. An enormous Mayan-style stone head was dug up near Campbelltown, south of Sydney, in the mid-1970s.

Incan rites and beliefs have been claimed identified among central Australian Aborigines.

All these disclosures, and more, demonstrate the navigational abilities of the ancient Amerindian peoples who spanned the Pacific Ocean in their balsa-wood rafts in ages past.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1995

Such evidence leads me to believe that Australia may hold the answers to many mysteries concerning human migrations even before the dawn of recorded history.

At a central western Queensland site, remains of walls and buildings have been unearthed below surface soil deposits. They are constructed of bricks of a triangular shape whose mortar seems more durable than the bricks themselves. Similar ruins exist in Western Australia and on the north coast of Papua New Guinea. Other mysterious ruins have been reported found in the Papua New Guinea hinterland.

A number of overseas archaeologists, anthropologists and ethnologists who have undertaken extensive field research over the years have come to this general agreement: based upon presentday New Guineans' ancient relics, customs and beliefs, and their knowledge of agriculture which they practised over a wide area for thousands of years before the coming of Europeans, a supercivilisation of highly advanced megalith-building people may once have existed in New Guinea and left its mark upon the Melanesians.

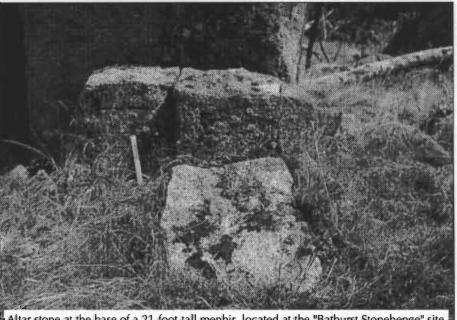
Other mysterious ruins which have raised much speculation exist near Alice Springs, Northern Territory. They consist of four terraces up to 40 feet tall. The terraced walls are constructed of large stone blocks closely fitted together in a way not unlike the mysterious stone walls of Tiahuanaco, Peru.

Similar stone walls form the ruins which lie submerged off the Queensland coast north of Brisbane. In the late 1970s, similar stone ruins were reported found in Western Australia.

In the New England district of northern New South Wales exists a series of apparently astronomically aligned stone arrangements scattered over a wide area. Consisting of often monolithic granite boulders of incredible weight, the ancient technology once employed to drag them into position remains a mystery.

Also in the New England district, near Armidale, a local resident many years ago discovered two sets of fossilised human footprints. Preserved in mudstone dated around 25,000 years old, they pose a puzzle: for while one set is the bare tracks of a child, the second set is impressions made by an adult's sandals!

At a South Australian site in the Flinders Ranges district, another set of sandalled human tracks has been found preserved in mudstone dated at 10,000 years.



Altar stone at the base of a 21-foot-tall menhir, located at the "Bathurst Stonehenge" site

Who in Australia 10,000 or 25,000 years ago could have had a standard of living such a far cry from that of the Aborigines that they wore shoes?

Further mystery surrounds the remains of the huge temple-like structure, built of large stone blocks, which stands in the Woomera district of South Australia.

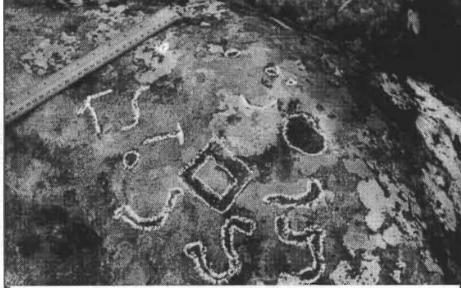
Off the coast of Gladstone, submerged upon what was formerly Queensland's original eastern coastline in ages past, lies what is left of extensive stone ruins. Some ruined walls are formed of Tiahuanaco-style blocks, while others are composed of the earliermentioned triangular-shaped bricks whose mortar appears more durable than the bricks themselves, for, in many cases, barely the rubble outlines remain of former dwellings and other structures. The location is kept a closely guarded secret by divers.

At another secret site further north up the coast, a stepped pyramidal structure is said to have been located. Constructed of large

stone blocks, it has partly collapsed due to the effects of countless tides over the centuries.

If these submerged ruins off Torres Strait, Queensland and elsewhere around Australia, or mysterious templelike ruins in Queensland, New South Wales, South and Western Australia pose riddles, how else are we to explain the number of stone and earthen pyramidal structures that have been found scattered across Queensland and New South Wales and perhaps elsewhere?

Apart from the Gympie Pyramid ruin and also some pyramid-



mystery.

trict north of Wollongong on the NSW south coast still recall the "Dapto Stonehenge" that stood near the town until the early 1970s. Consisting of 12 huge boulders arranged in a circle, it was destroyed by a construction team for a local development. Had it served as yet another ancient astronomical site? I know this

Residents of

the Dapto dis-

Examples of the mysterious rock script of Australia's lost civilisation, found by Rex and Heather Gilroy on the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, NSW.

shaped hills that were apparently utilised for astronomical purposes—and where undoubtedly Middle Eastern rock scripts have been found—we are still left with other ruins and hills seemingly employed for such purposes at a far earlier time by the mystery race in question. At these sites I have found rock inscriptions of the type mentioned at the beginning of this chapter.

Sometimes scattered hundreds of miles apart, when pinpointed on a map they are found largely to line up. This aspect of our study is too extensive to describe fully here and will be left for the forthcoming book, but it seems inevitable that other, as-yetunknown sites containing telltale rock inscriptions will be added to the list.

At Gosford, on the NSW central coast, stand large stones set amid circular, raised earthen mounds. These central stones have been hollowed out saucer-fashion. Water poured into the hollows was the means by which the ancient astronomers were able to see a reflection of the heavenly movements at night.

Also at Gosford, atop a mountain is a flat area now covered with trees hundreds of years old but which, thousands of years ago, would have been cleared. For here stand sandstone blocks, the remains of some enormous edifice. In the same area, upon a flat shoal of rock are 50 circular symbols, some joined by lines, others in formations, perhaps representing the movements of certain stars or planets. may be a surprise to a many people, but megalithic stone structures, reminiscent of England's famous Stonehenge and other similar astronomical stone formations erected across the British Isles, Europe and western Asia, exist right here in Australia!

At another 'astronomical observatory' site further north near

Wyong, atop a flat mountain summit stands a large rock shoal

upon which have been carved circular markings believed to repre-

Situated at another site deep in the forest country west of

Gosford and standing against a cliffside is a remarkable doorlike structure. Constructed of two upright stone pillars 20 feet high

with another stone slab placed across the top of the two uprights,

its purpose beyond some lost ceremonial significance remains a

South of Sydney near Campbelltown, in thick bushland above the Georges River, stand stoneworks predating early European set-

tlement of the early 1800s. Nearby is a large hill whose summit is

flattened by a base of stone blocks. The full view of the heavens

in every direction suggests this site had once been an ancient

sent the phases of the Moon.

astronomical observatory.

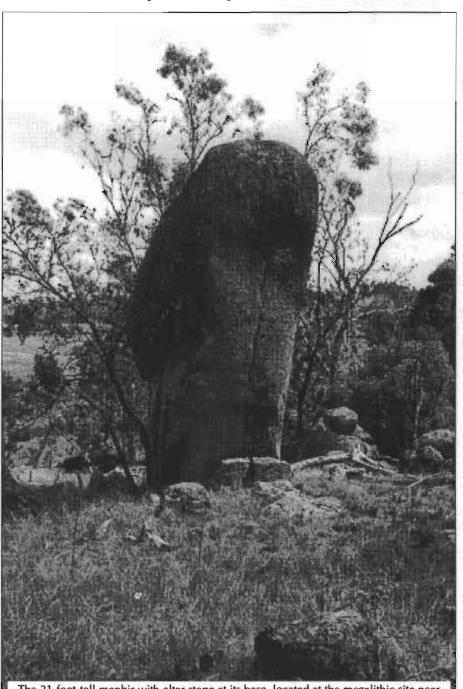
They are perhaps the most startling visible evidence of the former existence of an Australian 'lost civilisation' and hint at a highly advanced ancient knowledge of astronomy. As my future book on our Australian lost civilisation will cover these structures in more detail, we shall for convenience examine a few aspects of one particular site at a highly confidential location west of the Blue Mountains near Bathurst.

This site consists of stone alignments, standing stones, dolmens, stone circles, carved stone heads and other formations covering an area of at least several square miles of scrubby country, flat except for a few hills where signs of astronomical observation platforms have been found.

Since most Australians have for so long been conditioned to believe that their history only commenced with the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1770, it is not at all surprising to me that few people ever thought to consider the possibility that an earlier civilisation may have occupied this continent thousands of years ago.

I first became aware of the existence of Stonehenge-type stone arrangements in Australia back in 1965 when one day, following the discovery of the serpent and eagle altars on the Blue Mountains, I stumbled upon a lengthy alignment of large sandstone rocks forming a north-south axis for about 100 yards or so through dense scrub. Developers eventually claimed the site, but in 1969, while crossing a hillside near the Fish River just west of the Blue Mountains and south of Lithgow, I came upon a large granite upright-standing, pillar-like rock which gave every appearance of having been erected by human hands.

The rock was about 15 feet tall and a few feet in circumference. What appeared to be symbols carved on the stone were so badly weathered as to be indistinct. In September of that year I learnt of a series of mysterious granite structures down in the Snowy Mountains district of southern NSW and, later, of another similar formation in the Armidale region of New England.



The 21-foot-tall menhir with altar stone at its base, located at the megalithic site near Bathurst, New South Wales.

It was these reports that led Heather and me to commence an extensive field search throughout western New South Wales in the belief that there might well be other similar structures somewhere out there.

Our investigations at first drew a blank until, following media publicity about our search, we received a letter from a family near Bathurst informing us of two strange stone alignments on their granite-covered property.

And so, on what turned out to be one very wet and miserably cold day in August 1974, we found ourselves in a grass-covered field in pouring rain, standing before a row of crudely shaped granite rocks that seemed to stretch into the distance across neighbouring properties. We had just found the first of a number of western New South Wales megalithic stone arrangement sites

which, over the years, we still regard as our greatest archaeological discovery.

Excited at the immense importance of these structures, as you well might guess, we followed the line of stones through pouring rain until the freezing winter conditions forced us reluctantly to abandon the field.

Within a fortnight, and in better weather, we were back at the site equipped with cameras, pens, pads and tape measures to commence a detailed investigation of the structures which continues to the present day.

The stones, averaging 120 pounds in weight (although some were even heavier), extended in a line from south to north, one behind the other, measuring from a few feet apart to as much as a couple of yards, for up to a mile.

I soon found from measurements of the distance between each stone that these measurements repeated themselves at intervals throughout the entire alignment. It was obvious to us that there was a mathematical purpose here.

During a discussion with a neighbouring farmer, we were excited to learn that he also had an alignment of stones on his property.

We soon found that this second alignment was about the same length as the first, though separated from it by two miles, and that both were on a south-north axis. Also, individual measurements of each stone in this alignment produced the same results as in the first.

Then, near the southern end of the first alignment, I came upon a structure which gave me even greater surprise. Erected upon a granite base about four feet thick and 30 feet wide was a circular formation of 10 large, weathered granite boulders forming a miniature "Stonehenge". One of these stones had been shaped to form an altar.

Nearby, leading from this circular structure, I noticed three other stones separated a few feet apart and erected one behind the other in a north-westerly direction.

On our next visit we continued our investigations by following the north-westerly direction indicated by these stones. Several hundred feet away, upon a hilltop, we came across a pile of granite rubble, either the remains of a great boulder which had crumbled away with age or else the remains of a collapsed structure.

Continuing in the north-westerly direction I soon found myself looking at three huge balancing rocks, each placed upon its own platform. A natural enough sight, I thought at first-that is, until I measured the distance between each to find they formed a perfect triangle, each stone being 60 yards by 60 yards by 60 yards apart!

During our third expedition to these structures I was to discover, a few hundred yards further on again, a large granite rock, 15 feet tall with 33-foot circumference, a menhir erected upright upon a base of carved granite blocks partly covered by soil. Excavating the soil from the southern end of the platform, we discovered it to be composed of three blocks. The largest of these measured 8 feet long by 4 feet wide by 3 feet thick; the other two were each 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet.

Nearby, over another hill, I found four smaller granite stones forming a perfect square.

But it was in the vicinity of the north-west alignment of stone structures that I was to find what I consider to be the most remarkable of the entire series of megalithic marvels hereabouts.

There before me they stood, like sentinels guarding the works of this vanished race: three carved human heads! The largest, a 20-

foot-tall by 15-foot-circumference head-and-torso figure, was badly weathered with indistinct facial features; the other two each measured 6 feet 10 inches tall by 6 feet in circumference.

One weathered figure appeared female and had what remained of a hairline, whereas the other appeared male. Each displayed a very high forehead with eyes, nose and mouth being close to the

We believe these heads depict the Earth Mother and Sky Father deities of the old Earth-worshipping megalithic peoples of Europe and Asia. But what were they

doing here? Had that civilisation had its beginnings right here in Australia?

But, we asked ourselves, who built these megalithic formations? Certainly not the Aborigines who were never stonemasons. It was obvious to us that the Aborigines had once shared this continent with a highly developed race of people.

As the months passed we came to realise that the many formations of standing stones, stone circles, dolmens, numerous alignments of varying lengths, etc., covered an area of approximately 10 square miles. The entire site was nothing less than one great open-air astronomical observatory.

Some of these structures included massive blocks of granite, one about two storeys in height and almost that in width, beneath which passed a lengthy alignment.

One day while exploring the countryside at a point between the two one-mile-long alignments mentioned earlier, I came across two massive menhirs, a couple of hundred feet apart on an eastwest axis. I measured them at 21 feet and 19 feet in height respectively, and estimated they weighed at least 8 and 10 tons each. The eastern menhir had a small altar-stone at its eastern base.

These, and many more often massive stones making up the various formations, presented us with the problem of how such monolithic stones could have been dragged into place and erected even with the primitive means that scholars suggest were available to man of those times.

But we can be certain that, whoever the builders were, they worked with advanced building techniques which to this day remain largely unknown to modern science."

A good example of their abilities exists nearby the westernmost of the two one-mile-long stone alignments. Upon a hillside we found a 'water hole', 1 foot wide by 2 feet long by 3 feet deep, which had been cut out of a solid granite rockface. But how? The granite in this area blunts any modern engineer's drill! Surely, no known stone artefact could have done the job-and we certainly have yet to learn how these ancient stonemasons carved the other artworks hereabouts. To date, not one stone adze of any kind has been found anywhere in the entire region covered by this mighty observatory.

The 'water hole', we soon realised, was a libation bowl for some obscure rite associated with these star-worshippers' religion. Such bowls are found at many stone arrangement sites around the world wherever the old Earth-worship religion spread.

It is now 19 years since our investigation of the "Bathurst Stonehenge" began, and our work hereabouts continues. We have heard of a number of other apparent astronomical stone arrangement sites in central Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western

> and South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. It is obvious the 'lost civilisation of Australia' was nationwide in extent, and in time spread beyond these shores.

> However, it is the growing number of reported megalithic sites that remains of prime importance before any thought should be given to those already wellresearched monuments outside Australia. For example, there is reputedly a 100-mile-long series of large standing stones, spaced at irregular intervals, crossing the desert country in a remote region of the Northern Territory; and a mighty "Stonehenge" circle of

monolithic boulders in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. But where and how did the creators of these monoliths live?

By their very appearance, the ancient megalithic formations of Australia are remarkably similar to, but far older than, any megalithic sites of the old European-Asian Earth-worshipping peoples found beyond our shores. This leads us to the proposition that in dim antiquity the megalithic civilisation (the earliest known to mankind), together with its Earth Mother/Sky Father/Sun god religion (mankind's first religion), began in Australia from where its originators spread it out across the Earth.

With this civilisation also came the oldest known form of writing, from which grew the ogham script of the megalithic people of Europe and the Mediterranean region and from which other scripts developed.

In Chapter 14, I suggested how the first modern Homo sapiens evolved in Australia, eventually spreading out across the Earth. These humans, it appears, were our mysterious megalith-builders who developed the earliest form of civilisation right here in Australia-the pale-skinned (i.e., white) "culture heroes", the "old ones" whom the Aboriginal traditions say preceded them on this continent.

#### Continued on page 75

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36 • NEXUS

# The Lost Civilisation of Australia

### Continued from page 36

As I have pointed out, the rock script of this mysterious people is a curious mixture of Celtic ogham-like strokes and dots mixed with hieroglyphic symbols reminiscent of some ancient Middle Eastern or Mediterranean form of writing of later ages. I have made some interesting possible translations of a number of the Australian inscriptions by employing Celtic meanings together with the strange hieroglyphs and various Middle Eastern/Mediterranean examples they resemble. However, it is still too early for me to report on these findings.

It is now 28 years since I discovered the 'lost civilisation of Australia' with my initial find of the Blue Mountains serpent and eagle altar-stones. And although many finds have been made since then which add further evidence to my theories surrounding this mystery, Heather and I still have a great deal of research awaiting us.

An aura of mystery ensbrouds the 'lost civilisation of Australia' like no other in this country. The silent stone formations, the serpent and eagle altars and other megalithic wonders that span the continent are, for us, the real unsolved puzzles of our ancient past. Yet I do believe that one day the 'lost civilisation of Australia', speaking through its rock inscriptions, will reveal its sphinx-like secrets and surprise us all with a hitherto undreamed-of history.

Australia is covered with megalithic sites, the curious relics of a vanished culture. These relics of our 'unknown history', for far too long overlooked, are at last about to receive the attention they deserve. The 'lost civilisation of Australia' is to assume its rightful place at the forefront of all the unexplained wonders that make up our mysterious Australia.

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